

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Ryan Announces State Approval Of Funds For Darien Housing Authority**



#### *Will Finance Renovations At Local Housing Project*

State Representative John J. Ryan, R-Darien, today announced the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) has approved a low-interest loan of \$260,000 to the Darien Housing Authority. The loan funds will be used toward renovations at the Allen-O'Neill Homes and Apartments on Noroton Avenue.

The Allen-O'Neill apartment building contains 12 units. The housing complex affords a unique opportunity for the majority of its low-income residents to live in a neighborhood setting of an additional 41 detached single homes. The complex is located in a mature residential community with convenient proximity to area shopping centers and schools.

The renovations that will be funded by the loan include removing and replacing a concrete deck that serves as the rear entrance of the apartment building, which is currently in a state of disrepair and does not meet handicapped accessibility codes. Temporary plywood ramps have been used in the past when absolutely necessary. The new deck will address any handicapped accessibility issues and the project is expected to begin later this year.

Also, aged clay sewer lines serving the 41 single homes will be replaced. The sewer lines are cracked from tree roots and require continual cleaning to prevent overflow. Additional pipes have been installed in several homes to help alleviate the problem. The project is expected to begin in 2008.

"We are absolutely ecstatic about the approval of this loan," said Darien Housing Authority Chairman Cynthia Ashburne. "John Ryan did a stellar job in being able to secure this and with the lack of funding out there, we feel very fortunate to receive the support. The CHFA was impressed with how well the Housing Authority maintains our properties and wanted us to be able to continue that degree of upkeep."

"I am very pleased that the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority was able to act so quickly and to give favorable treatment to our request for funding for the badly needed repair work at Allen-O'Neill Homes and Apartments," said Rep. Ryan. "People are often

surprised to hear that there actually IS a Darien Housing Authority, and unfortunately the view of many in our State Capitol is that everyone who resides in lower Fairfield County is wealthy.”

“As we know too well, our area of the State has serious needs for affordable housing and the Darien Housing Authority has been diligently working for many years to assist in this effort,” added Rep. Ryan. “I am delighted that we are able to be of assistance, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Authority. I especially appreciate the prompt work that Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Abromaitis and his staff did to expedite our request.”